(Typo correction) Some questions about DOCUMERICA color photos

6 messages

public final Stvk; <publicfinalstvk@gmail.com> Wed, Jul 16, 2025 at 6:13 PM
To: stillpix@nara.gov

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The files mentioned have an all lowercase '.gif'.

Sorry -publicfinalstvk@gmail.com

Vào 16-07-2025 11:33, đã viết:

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StillPix <stillpix@nara.gov> Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 2:08 AM
To: "public final Stvk," <publicfinalstvk@gmail.com>

Hello,

Thank you for contacting the Still Picture Branch. We've noted your interest in our series of records 412-DA: DOCUMERICA: The Environmental Protection Agency's Program to Photographically Document Subjects of Environmental Concern.

As you mentioned, the coloration you see within the online catalog for many of the images in 412-DA does not represent the original color. The GIF files in the Catalog were derived from TIFF scans, which were created in the late 1990s using reference slides that had undergone color shifting. There has never been a systematic project at NARA to adjust or "fix" the color of those reference slide scans.

Over the years, there have been projects to replace the reference slide scans with new scans of the preservation/reproduction slide sets, which have far less color shifting. For example, most of the JPEG files represent a selection of items that were rescanned as part of an exhibition in 2013 (the "pr" in the filename was a code used internally by NARA digitization services to indicate that the file was intended for public access in the online Catalog). More recently, we have been scanning more preservation/reproduction slides, and adding them to the Catalog in batches. Please note that we are rescanning the images out of order, so they will not be updated sequentially. Due to time and staffing limitations, as well as other high-priority projects for our office, we do not have an expected completion date for the rescanning project at this time.

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We hope this information is helpful. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Thank you,
Sarah Bseirani
Archivist, Still Picture Branch (RRSS)
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https://www.archives.gov/research/still-pictures

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To: StillPix <stillpix@nara.gov>

Hello and thanks for the reply!

Do NARA retain the color-shifted scans after the new scans were made? Specifically in the case of 412-DA-939, which are a very great sample for comparison and illustrative purposes due to its capture of broad color range and various detail levels.

Also am I allowed to publish ONLY your reply to my previous email quoted in this email and your reply to this email, to the Internet Archive?

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However, we have the scans saved internally, as well as available for download in our research room. Additionally, the reference slides themselves are also retained in our holdings and viewable in person in our research room.

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To: StillPix <stillpix@nara.gov>

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StillPix <stillpix@nara.gov> Thu, Jul 24, 2025 at 8:56 PM
To: "public final Stvk," <publicfinalstvk@gmail.com>

Hello,

We retain two copies of reference slides. One set was sent directly from the EPA as we received the records, and the second set was later created by the National Archives directly from the originals. The set from the EPA is color-shifted, and what was selected to be digitized, as the secondary set was not yet made by NARA.

The image you located here was originally mislabeled. The corrected local identifier should read 412-DA-937, which is online here: https://catalog.archives.gov/id/543430. The image currently available through the online catalog for 412-DA-941 is correct; https://catalog.archives.gov/id/543434.

As we continue to re-digitize the images within 412-DA, we are verifying and correcting photograph identifier numbers and captions, as needed.

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> * The file available on the Catalog look like the "original" displayed in this NARA blog post: https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2013/08/13/documerica-seeing-the-seventies-more-clearly/
>
> I'd also like request that the information provided in reply be made publicly available somewhere officially so anyone have questions like me can easily find answer.
>
> Thanks -publicfinalstvk@gmail.com